3712. *[Transferred to the 26th March,* 1992.]

Ship services on Brahmaputra

3713, DR. NAGEN SAIKIA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to launch ship services on the river Brahmaputra ;

(b) whether necessary dredging is being, made to facilitate such services ;

(c) if so, by when the services are likely to be started; and

(d) if answer to part (a) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to take some positive steps in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c) The Central Inland Water Transport Corporation has been operating cargo services by Inland Vessels from Calcutta to Pandu through Bangladesh on Brahmaputra since 1972. Channel improvement works by bandalimg to facilitate ship movement are being carried* out by Inland Waterway.; Authority of India. At present dredging is no being undertaken.

(d) Does not arise.

National highway between Kurnool and Vellore

3714. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for the construction of National Highway connecting Kurnool and Andhra Pradesh and Vellore in Tamil Nadu *via* Nandyal, Cuddapah, Rayachoti and Chittoor ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Any decision for declaration of new National Highways can be taken only after finalisation of the 8th Five Year Plan.

Development of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh

3715. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop National Highways in Andhra Pradesh with the financial assistance by Asian Development Bank ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) Four-laning of National Highway No. 5 between Visakhapatnam & Anaka-palle and the strengthening of the existing carriagewaj including Anaka-palle Bypass is being done under Asian Development Bank loan (Package 1) at an estimated revised cost of Rs. 6441.56 lakhs.

Variation in Length of National Highways

3716. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there are variations in rate of increase in the length of National Highways in the country as compared to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and also in rate of increase in average length per lac of population ; and